



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

September 13, 2019

Vic Baker, Senior Manager
Diablo Division, Local Customer Experience
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
1030 Detroit Avenue
Concord, CA 94518

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND CERTIFIED US MAIL

RE: Briones Park Exposed Pipeline / Coordinates – 37.9179833,-122.1266472

Dear Mr. Baker:

The Fire District has recently become aware of an exposed natural gas line within our jurisdiction. I have evaluated the situation and want to make you aware of our concerns.

It is my understanding that the pipe is currently in use and is a high pressure distribution line. The location is in a wildland urban interface area of sloped terrain, annual grasses, and oak woodland. There are also areas of dense brush. This location falls within the CAL FIRE designated HIGH FIRE HAZARD severity zone.

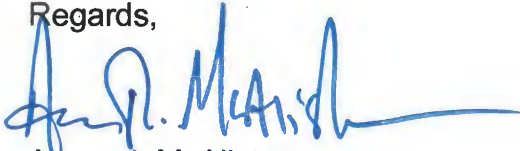
The Fire District's specific concerns fall under three areas:

- 1) **Access:** The area appears to be open to the public or immediately adjacent to a public access area. In the photos, there appears to be a "sag" in the pipe. I am concerned that a person could use the pipe as a walkway adding weight to the pipe and causing further degradation of its strength and integrity. At a minimum, the area should be marked KEEP OUT or DANGER.
- 2) **Wildland Fire:** Should a wildland fire come through the area, this pipe would be subject to direct flame impingement from the surrounding flammable vegetation. Clearly, this is not an ideal situation. Additionally, it is very typical in a wildland fire for rocks to become dislodged, debris to roll, and trees to become compromised and even fall independently. A falling tree in this area could directly impact the pipe. In the last 90 days, there have been two wildland fires within two miles of this location.
- 3) **Seismic:** As you may be aware, we experienced a 4.3 earthquake on July 26, 2019, centered near Danville, CA and just a few miles from the location of this pipe. I am concerned about the integrity of this pipe during another seismic event.

I understand your team is presently evaluating the situation and coming up with a plan to address it. While it is entirely possible that this pipe has existed for years in its current state, I appreciate you placing a high priority in addressing what has become a significant concern for the community and the Fire District.

I look forward to hearing the plan to address this exposed gas line.

Regards,



Aaron J. McAlister
Deputy Fire Chief

cc: Contra Costa Office of Emergency Services
City of Lafayette
Mike Marcucci, Cal Fire SCU
Supervisor Candace Andersen